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FALSE MEMORY SYNDROME FOUNDATION NEWSLETTER

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Dear Friends,

Happy New Year!

Will 2001 be the year when the FMS problem fades sufficiently so that there is no longer a need for the Foundation? Wouldn't that be wonderful! What would it take? The remaining issues of debate about recovered memories are no obstacle. Indeed, the consensus on issues is far greater than any differences. (See Knapp and VandeCreek p. 2) What *is* desperately needed is to spur communication between the accusers and their parents. If only mental health professionals and their organizations had the courage to state that it is inappropriate and unacceptable behavior to make criminal accusations against a person and then refuse to communicate with either the accused or the accused's representatives. Once communication begins, most families reconcile. It's easy to demonize someone who is not present. It is difficult to maintain the belief that one's parent is a demon when looking in his or her eyes and experiencing that parent's love.

We need to remember, however, the enormous difficulty that communicating with parents presents to those caught in the recovered memory web. There is a tendency for people to avoid situations that are uncomfortable, and it is difficult to imagine a more uncomfortable situation than facing deeply loved parents after accusing them of heinous acts of childhood sexual abuse. Whatever can be done to facilitate the process of communication is what must be done. That is the main focus of the Foundation's effort this year.

Unfortunately, we are still getting phone calls from people newly affected by accusations of abuse based on nothing more than recovered repressed memories. The article on page 2 "Still Need for Foundation" describes those who contacted the Foundation in response to a sympathetic newspaper article in St Petersburg.

There are also some lawsuits being brought and there are still some people such as Bruce Perkins and the Souzas who are under arrest. In this issue Bob Chatelle writes about four cases in Massachusetts that he believes are wrongful convictions. Although only the Souza case stems from

belief in repressed memories, the others are evidence of the larger panic about sexual abuse in our culture.

Although blind faith in the accuracy of recovered memories seems to be dying, that belief also seems like a weed with roots stretching beneath the surface so that when it is plucked from one patch, it quickly pops up in another. In this issue readers will find a remarkable number of descriptions, quotes or mentions of outstanding studies about memory. The presence of so many citations leaves no doubt about the state of scientific understanding. At the same time, we see the deep roots of belief in recovered memories in a disturbing new book promoting recovered memory beliefs and practices. We devote space to some sharp comments about this book (page 3) so that readers will be aware of its dubious foundations.

The letters from our readers continue to give us a picture of what is happening in families. We rejoice in the reconciliations, but when children return because of a parent's fatal illness, we ache that the return was not in time for happy new experiences. Reality isn't always pretty. The end of the recovered memory phenomenon for some families is not nice. The letter called "The Passing" may haunt some readers. It should haunt any person who ever encouraged accusations based on nothing more than belief in recovered memories.

We thank you for your deep generosity in response to our fund raising drive. We are most grateful and happy to let you know that we have resources to start to explore ways to help more families reconcile.

*Pamela*

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*The next issue will be combined March/April*

## Still Need for Foundation

FMSF Staff

The November 26th edition of the *St. Petersburg Times* (Florida) featured an article worthy of note for its depiction of a 71-year-old mother accused of sexual abuse by her adult son, based on "fleeting and vague" memories. It engendered many letters and phone calls to the Foundation.

Dave Schreiber's comprehensive article, "Sins of the Mother?" chronicles the mother's story through letters and e-mails. In the last one her son demanded that all correspondence cease. And yes, he was in therapy. The mother, younger son and former husband all adamantly deny that any abuse occurred. An accompanying article tells the story of Laura Pasley, a retractor who once believed that her mother had abused her, but eventually realized that her allegations were false.

The FMSF volunteer whose name and phone number were listed in the article received 6 calls from local families in similar circumstances, but none had been accused recently. Here at the office (our number was also listed), we had more than a dozen calls and several letters. This response is from a newspaper with a circulation of approximately 460,000. A few years ago there would have been many more calls.

One call came from a woman whose two daughters in their 40s accused their father of sexual abuse six years ago. Another came from a man whose 40-year-old daughter accused him one year ago. These are typical of the thousands of calls we've received over the years. We were surprised, however, by a letter from a 76-year-old mother who was accused in 1969 by her then 17-year-old daughter who had been seeing a youth minister at their church. This is one of the earliest reports of a false accusation of abuse of which we are aware.

Surprisingly, these three parents had never heard of false memory syndrome or of the Foundation before reading the article. As the 76-year-old mother wrote to us, "It has a name! I am not alone!" When her husband died 13 years ago, she decided to move on and concentrate on her own well-being. The closing sentence in her letter: "I am now married to a wonderful, caring man and am extremely happy—but in the middle of the night I cry."

So although the number of new calls from accused parents has dramatically decreased, there are still families out there who, until they see an article that mentions the False Memory Syndrome Foundation, have nowhere to turn for help. Obviously, our work is not finished.

Scheiber, D. "Sins of the Mother?" *St. Petersburg Times*, Nov. 26, 2000 1F & 3F.



## Consensus on False (Recovered) Memories

from Knapp & VandeCreek [1] Table 1, page 366

### Child abuse

Child abuse is harmful and prevalent.

Satanic or ritualistic abuse is rare.

### Creation of memories

Adults with continuous memories of being abused are likely to have accurate memories.

Some memories of past traumas can be lost and later recovered.

Memories from infancy are highly unreliable.

False memories can be created.

Magnification and minimization are better ways to conceptualize memories than the dichotomy of "true" or "false."

It is difficult to ascertain the accuracy of memories recovered by suggestive "memory recovery" techniques.

### Diagnosis of and psychotherapy with patients with memories of abuse

Child abuse, in and of itself, is not a diagnosis.

Child abuse cannot be inferred from a set of current symptoms.

Mental illness and mental disorders have many causes.

Psychotherapists should ask patients about past childhood abuse if it is clinically indicated.

Memory recall of abuse is not necessary for effective therapy to occur.

The focus of treatment should be on the current functioning of the patient.

Treatments should be tailored to the individual needs of each patient.

At times, patients may need to learn to live with ambiguity about the veracity of memory or memory fragments.

### Role of psychotherapists

Psychotherapists need to respect and promote patient autonomy.

Psychotherapists need to scrupulously maintain professional boundaries.

Psychotherapists need to maintain therapeutic neutrality on the issues of litigation and confrontation.

Even though psychotherapists have no primary legal duty to third parties, they should not be oblivious to the impact of their actions on those third parties.

1. Knapp, S. & VandeCreek, L. "Recovered Memories of Childhood Abuse: Is There an Underlying Professional Consensus?" *Professional Psychology: Research and Practice* 2000, Vol. 31, No 4, 365-371.

### **special thanks**

We extend a very special "Thank you" to all of the people who help prepare the FMSF Newsletter. *Editorial Support:* Toby Feld, Allen Feld, Janet Fetkewicz, Howard Fishman, Peter Freyd. *Columnists:* August Piper, Jr. and Members of the FMSF Scientific Advisory Board. *Letters and information:* Our Readers.

***Stranger in the Mirror: Dissociation:  
The Secret Epidemic of Our Times***  
Marlene Steinberg and Maxine Schnall,  
Cliff Street Books, 2000  
FMSF Staff

One of the more effective techniques for debunking pseudo-science is to take a pseudo-scientific method and use it for demonstrating not just the nonsense claimed by the pseudo-scientist but for all sorts of other nonsense. When it comes to memory-recovery techniques it turns out that we don't have to go through this effort — others have already done it for us. Using the same hypnotic techniques long favored by MPD/DID specialists, Dr. John E. Mack recovers memories of alien abductions and Dr. Brian L. Weiss routinely recovers memories of past lives. You might think that the efforts of these two psychiatrists would have induced a little wariness among the MPD/DID specialists. No such luck. In a remarkable display of mental gymnastics a third psychiatrist, Dr. Marlene Steinberg, has now concluded that the work of Mack and Weiss *confirms* the technique.

No, she doesn't argue that people are really remembering alien abductions or past lives. She argues that they are really remembering terrible abuse in their own lives. The fact that they remember this abuse as something clearly absurd is evidence—according to her theory—of the power of dissociation. (Most of the rest of the world would take it as evidence of the power of hypnosis.)

Dr. Steinberg doesn't stop with past life —she goes on to conclude that visions of *afterlife* (as found in "near death" experiences) are also dissociative symptoms of early abuse. All this can be found in the climax of her book (written with talk-show hostess Maxine Schnall).

The book was reviewed by FMSF Advisor Elizabeth Loftus in the November issue of *Psychology Today*.<sup>[1]</sup> The title of Loftus's review is

"The most dangerous book you may already be reading" and it appears with the editorial comment, "Steinberg is trying to breathe new life into a form of therapy that once destroyed thousands of lives." A few excerpts:

"To make a diagnosis of DID, Steinberg uses a test she developed called the Steinberg Clinical Interview for DSM-IV Dissociative Disorders, (SCID-D, for short). She modestly characterizes the test as a "breakthrough diagnostic tool," but offers no scientific evidence for its validity. Nevertheless, her confidence in the instrument knows no bounds: If the test says you have DID, then you have DID."

"Steinberg's faith in her "breakthrough" tool may have prompted her to include in her book a series of questionnaires, adapted from the SCID-D, that readers can use to determine whether they, too, are in need of treatment for a dissociative disorder. I sat down one day and took these tests. To my dismay, I found that I had amnesia and suffered from "mild identify confusion."

"It doesn't take a crystal ball to foresee thousands of people finding themselves described in the pages of Steinberg's book and having their fears confirmed by its tests. Nor will it be very surprising if many of these people go to therapists who, wittingly or unwittingly, implant memories of childhood cruelty that never happened. No doubt some innocent people (especially parents, grandparents and siblings) will be accused of the "remembered" abuse, and some may be sued or prosecuted. Some may even go to prison."

*Psychology Today* published a reply from Steinberg wherein she claimed, "Based on the highest standards of psychiatry, the SCID-D is now considered the 'gold standard' for identifying dissociative symptoms and disorders." We can't help but wonder if Dr. Steinberg, long-time Vice President of the International Society

for the Study of Dissociation, is aware that the gold standard has long been considered discredited and that no nation has used it since 1937.

1. Loftus, Elizabeth "The Most Dangerous Book You May Already Be Reading" *Psychology Today*, Nov/Dec 2000 pp 32-34, 84



**About the Authors**  
The jacket (and website) for  
*Stranger in the Mirror* says:

**Marlene Steinberg, M.D** is an associate professor of psychiatry at the University of Massachusetts Medical Center and a research affiliate at Yale University School of Medicine.

The faculty website<sup>[1]</sup> for the Dept of Psychiatry at U. Mass lists 222 names. Dr. Steinberg is not among them. After repeated phone calls, we finally learned that Dr. Steinberg is a "Voluntary Research Associate Professor (without clinical privileges)."

The search engine at the Yale University website<sup>[2]</sup> finds 135 web-pages with the word "Steinberg." None of them contain "Marlene Steinberg." Repeated phone calls to the University failed to locate anyone who knew the nature of Dr. Steinberg's affiliation.

1. [www.umassmed.edu/psychiatry/faculty/](http://www.umassmed.edu/psychiatry/faculty/)
2. [www.yale.edu/search/search.html](http://www.yale.edu/search/search.html)

**Maxine Schnall** seems to have had many careers. In 1981 she called herself Doctor and invented something called "rational love." Carol Tavris noted in the *New York Times* that her Ph.D. was "from Columbia Pacific University, a nonaccredited California school from which one can, by mail, get a Ph.D. in psychology." (On December 2, 1999, Marin County Superior Court Judge Lynn Duryee ordered the university to close and to refund its student fees.)

In the 1980s Schnall was a talk-show hostess in Philadelphia and later in Long Island.

On the January 1, 1992, Oprah Winfrey Show she appeared as "Maxine Schnall, Assertiveness Trainer."

In a blurb for a recent book by Barbara De Angelis she is identified as "Maxine Schnall, founder and executive director of Wives' Self Help, the first marital hotline in America."

## **Lest You Think Recovered Memory Practices Were Over**

"The Nazi's Daughter: The Therapist as Jewish Mother" Hara Mendelberg, *Am J. of Psychotherapy*, 54 (1) Winter 2000, 75-96.

Although Knapp & VandeCreek (see p. 2) write that there is a consensus in the professional community that "memory recall of abuse is not necessary for effective therapy to occur," and that "the focus of treatment should be on the current functioning of the patient," in this article the author assumes that "Symptoms could be alleviated when the memory of the traumatic events, as well as the accompanying overwhelming affect, were progressively uncovered, processed, and integrated into words or actions."

The following excerpts give an idea of the author's therapy practice:

"In a second stage, hypnosis was introduced and added for the purpose of relaxation and stabilization of symptoms. Inductions using deep breathing, progressive muscle relaxation, and imagery were instrumental in balancing mood, motoric and physiological responses. Guided imagery was used for different purposes at different stages. First, a base exercise was established, then it was generalized from the office to everyday life, and finally used as a frame of reference when venturing into the later stage of uncovering. The patient generated her own images, which, in turn were used in subsequent sessions"

"Two specific techniques applied to spontaneously generated material by the patient in trance allowed to access relevant past experience: a) Revivification and b) Age regression, which, in combination with psychoanalytic psychotherapy, helped to uncover, connect, and integrate fragmented recollections and flashbacks."

"Age regression helped uncover the emotional and physical assaults she experienced in earlier developmental stages, at her father's hands."

\* \*

*The Body Remembers: The Psychophysiology of Trauma and Trauma Treatment*  
Babette Rothschild, W.W. Norton, 2000  
The title says it all.

## **"The Quality of False Memory Over Time: Is Memory for Misinformation 'Remembered' or 'Known'?"**

Peter Frost *Psychonomic Bulletin & Review*, 2000, 7 (3), 531-536.

This research helps to explain how false memories become established. Results for 100 students show that while the memory of actual information tends to blur with the passage of time, people tend to recall more misinformation over time and to judge it as more vivid. False information comes to mind more readily a while after the event than immediately after it.

## **A Good Question**

In the July 2000 issue of *USA Today Magazine*, Sonia Cunningham, a graduate student at Victoria University in Wellington, NZ, describes a study by Read and Lindsay showing that some people report periods of partial and complete amnesia for non-traumatic events such as summer camps and high school graduations. She notes that "The act of simple forgetting can explain a period of time when a non-traumatic event is remembered less than it is at the time of the question. This is not considered a repressed memory. Why, then, should traumatic events that have been forgotten for a period of time be termed a special class of repressed memories?"

Read, J.D. & Lindsay, D. S.  
"Amnesia" for Summer Camps and High School Graduation: Memory work Increases Reports of Prior Periods of Remembering Less" *J. of Traumatic Stress*, 13 (1) 2000 p 129-147.

## **"Characteristics of Depressed Patients Who Report Childhood Sexual Abuse"**

Gladstone et al. *Am J Psychiatry* 156:3 March 1999, 431-437.

The results of this study indicate that depression is unlikely a direct consequence of childhood sexual abuse. Childhood sexual abuse appears to be associated with a greater chance of having experienced a broadly dysfunctional childhood home environment, a greater chance of having a borderline personality style, and, in turn, a greater chance of experiencing depression in adulthood.

## **UK Study Challenges Beliefs About Child Abuse**

Michael Clarke

*Daily Mail* (London) November 20, 2000

In a survey of almost 3,000 young adults aged 18 to 24 years old, the British National Society for the Prevention of Child Abuse found that children are seven times more likely to be badly beaten by their parents than they are to be sexually abused by them. The study found that father-daughter incest is rare and that the majority of incest perpetrators are brothers and stepbrothers.

"A willingness to select victims pretty much at random, often in the absence of any proven or even reported crime, suggests that [many American] lynchings enact some base, communal dramaturgy, not wholly unlike what occurred in the witch-burning frenzies in northern Europe in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, and not wholly unlike, either, some of the repressed-memory molestation frenzies of our own time, one or two of them capable of sucking in whole communities."

Larry McMurtry, *The New York Review of Books*, December 21, 2000.

## Can People be Led to Believe Implausible Events?

Mazzoni, G.A.L., Loftus, E.F. and Kirsch, I. "Changing beliefs about autobiographical events: A little plausibility goes a long way." To appear: *J. of Experimental Psychology: Applied*  
Allen Feld

"YES" is the answer to the question posed in the title, according to Giuliana Mazzoni and her colleagues. Mazzoni et al.'s research demonstrates that it can happen. Using a comprehensive research design and sophisticated statistical analysis, the researchers delve into the claims made that creating false memories of incest would be highly unlikely. While accepting the reality that memories can be implanted, Hyman and Kleinknecht<sup>11</sup> (1999) point out that for a suggestion to lead to a false memory the event needs to be regarded as plausible. As an example, Pezdek et al. (1997)<sup>12</sup> reported that they were able to implant memories of being lost, a plausible event, in 15% of their subjects. However, they were unable to implant a memory of receiving a rectal enema, which they described as less plausible than being lost.

Mazzoni and her colleagues created an objective and comprehensive research design that allowed important questions to be examined, seemed scientifically faithful, incorporated appropriate statistical measures, made appropriate use of a control group including intensive debriefings. In the discussion they described their results without bias and they avoided a polemic narrative. Obviously, this research is important to families who are being falsely accused of incest and strongly believe that the incest memory (a clearly implausible event) was implanted.

Two hypotheses were tested in Mazzoni et al.'s study: 1) "the perceived plausibility of an event can be changed by suggestive influence, and 2) when plausibility is increased, fur-

ther suggestive influences can increase ratings of the likelihood that an initially implausible event has occurred." These hypotheses are directly relevant to the false memory issue. It's fairly easy to conceive an over-simplified scenario that relates to false memories of incest. *An adult goes to a therapist. Over a period of time, the therapist raises the possibility that the client may be a victim of sexual abuse. The client rejects this notion as implausible, yet continues seeing the therapist. The therapist suggests reading material. Perhaps a visit to a survivors' group is recommended. The client perceives that others with similar concerns as hers/his have been victims of sexual abuse and wonders if that might be the cause for the psychological concerns being experienced.* The initially implausible possibility, sexual abuse, may now be seen as somewhat plausible.

Three experiments were undertaken in Mazzoni et al.'s study. Experiment 1 examined people who had not experienced the implausible event (witnessing someone being "Possessed") and who believed being "possessed" was highly improbable. Sixty-five students from the University of Florence, from a total pool of 430 students who had completed a set of rating scales, completed all phases of the study. The group of 65 students was randomly assigned to three groups. One group was exposed to readings that dealt with "Possession," the implausible event. A second group, labeled the choking group (having been told about swallowing something), was assigned readings about that plausible event (described as "Almost Choking"). The third group, the control group, received no suggested readings.

Phase 1 involved all subjects taking a test that asked them to rate on a 1 to 8 scale how plausible it was for individuals to experience each of 40 listed events including the implausible event

of "Witnessing Possession." Subjects then indicated their confidence in the likelihood that each event happened to them in their childhood. Phase 2, occurring three months later, asked the subjects in the two experimental groups to read 12 one-page articles that randomly included three articles on either possession or choking, depending on their group. The control group received no such stimuli and skipped this phase. Phase 3, held one week later, was a questionnaire that ostensibly measured their fears and was interpreted as indicating they probably had witnessed possession or nearly choked, depending on their group. Again, the control group skipped this phase. In the fourth phase, held one week later, the subjects rated the plausibility of witnessing a possession or nearly choking. The "Witness Possession" group saw possession as less implausible and they were more confident in the likelihood that they witnessed such an event in early childhood.

Experiment 2 examined the effect of the mini-articles alone, without the fear questionnaire and interpretation, in changing the perceived plausibility of an event. This time 71 different students from a pool of 332 undergraduates completed all parts of the study. Another change from Experiment 1 was that two implausible events, "Witnessing Possession" and "Kidnapping Threat" were chosen. The results also indicated that the simple suggestive impact of reading about the implausible events seemed to increase their plausibility ratings and the likelihood that it happened to them in childhood. The likelihood ratings increase without the suggestions showed a more modest increase.

Experiment 3 investigated the effect of using a cultural and historical setting different from the contemporary one used in the first two experiments. Fifty-seven participants, who had not taken part in the other studies, completed this experiment. This time

only one implausible event was used, "Witnessing Possession." Another change was that a second group of mini-articles was used, but set in a different country and a century earlier. Results showed that reading the articles about other cultures and times significantly increased plausibility but not likelihood ratings.

This research is important in demonstrating that people can be led to believe implausible events. Indeed, Mazzoni et al.'s closing sentence in this article bears quoting: "*It also reinforces the idea that therapists need to be careful in their use of potentially suggestive procedures that can change the perceived likelihood of occurrence of unremembered events.*"

1 Hyman, I.E., Jr. & Kleinknecht, E.E. (1999) "False childhood memories: Research, theory, and applications." In L. M. Williams & V. L. Banyards (Eds.) *Trauma and Memory*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications

2 Pezdek, K., Finger, K., & Hodge, D. (1997). "Planting false childhood memories: The role of event Plausibility." *Psychological Science*, 8, 437-441.

Allen Feld is Director of Continuing Education for the FMS Foundation. He has retired from the faculty of the School of Social Work at Marywood University in Pennsylvania.

### **"Blind to Change"**

Laura Spinney  
*New Scientist*, Nov 18, 2000

Much of the focus in the false memory debate has been on the retrieval of memories. This article summarizes recent research about what information people actually see and remember. You may be surprised at the things most people miss. People see far less than they think they do.

The article is available at: <http://www.newscientist.com>

We urge readers to try one of the experiments mentioned in this article by logging onto the following website. <http://nivea.psycho.univ-paris5.fr/ASShtml/ASSC.html>

It is amazing!

## **New Zealand FMS Group Closes Its Doors**

The New Zealand organization COSA (Casualties Of Sexual Allegations) was formed in 1994 to address the epidemic of allegations of sexual abuse arising from the use of "recovered memory therapy." COSA was inundated with calls for help and the workload was such that in late 1996, we formed branches in Auckland and Christchurch.

Mainly as a result of the work done by COSA in educating the public, lawyers, politicians and professionals, and the constructive criticism of theories, practices and beliefs underlying recovered memory therapy, the number of new cases slowed. A decade later, they have virtually disappeared and the epidemic appears to have ended.

In the past year, the Auckland branch has had very few calls for help, and only one case was based on "recovered memories." Many members have gradually faded away as they adjusted to their personal situations. Remaining members believe that the organization has run its natural course and should close.

The Auckland group of COSA ceased operations on 31 October 2000. The Christchurch group will continue to operate.

### **"Neural Events that Underlie Remembering Something that Never Happened"**

Gonsalves, Brian and Paller, Ken A.  
*Nature Neuroscience* 3 (11) Dec 2000  
1316-1321.

Results of experiments indicate that visual imagery is involved in the generation of false memories and provide neural correlates of processing differences between true and false memories. The authors found that brain activity varies depending on whether a memory is true or false.

The study provides evidence from

brain activity that a person may imagine that something has happened, and then the brain later remembers the event as if it had really occurred.

## **Menninger Clinic Relocating**

The Menninger Clinic plans to relocate in 2002, moving from Topeka, Kansas, where it has been for 75 years, to Houston. The relocation is part of a partnership with Baylor College of Medicine and Methodist Health Care system. Insurance restrictions that dramatically reduced the number of approved hospital days were a factor in the decision to relocate. These restrictions have caused financial problems that reduced the Menninger endowment from \$129 million in 1998 to \$104 million this year.

The Menninger Clinic has long played a prominent role in American psychiatry. After World War II, one-third of all psychiatrists being trained in the country were enrolled in Menninger. The clinic has treated about 224,000 patients.

David Miles, "Topeka Losing Renowned Clinic" *Philadelphia Inquirer*, Oct 3, 2000.

"By regarding a phenomenon as a psychiatric diagnosis—treating it, reifying it in psychiatric diagnostic manuals, developing instruments to measure it, inventing scales to rate its severity, establishing ways to reimburse the costs of its treatment, encouraging pharmaceutical companies to search for effective drugs, directing patients to support groups, writing about possible causes in journals—psychiatrists may be unwittingly colluding with broader cultural forces to contribute to the spread of a mental disorder."

Carl Elliott, "A New Way to be Mad,"  
*Atlantic Monthly*,  
Dec. 2000, pp. 73-84

FMSF Staff

**Kristi Jones v. Dorothy Lurie** No 14-98-01097-CV  
Fourteenth Ct Appeals Nov. 2, 2000

In May, 1998 a Houston jury found psychotherapist Dorothy Lurie not responsible for her patient's mental anguish after she helped the woman recover false memories of murdering babies and cannibalism. The plaintiff, Kristi Jones appealed the decision, but the appeal court affirmed the trial decision.

See *FMSF Newsletter* June 1998 Vol 7 No 5.

**Johnson v. Rogers Memorial Hospital**

The lawsuit filed by Charles and Karen Johnson against Rogers Hospital, Kay Phillips, Jeff Hollowell and Tim Reisenaur (No. 98-0445) has been accepted for review by the Wisconsin Supreme Court. The Johnsons claim injuries after their daughter accused them of abuse while being treated by the three therapists. Attorney William Smoler is representing the Johnsons.

On appeal: Johnson v. Rogers Memorial Hospital No 98-0445 Ct of Appeals of Wisc, Dist 4, 2000 Wisc. App. LEXIS 642, Jul 13, 2000.

**Wenatchee Update**

**Last Wenatchee Prisoner Released**—Mike Rose, the last remaining Wenatchee sex ring prisoner was released from prison on December 7 as a result of a reference hearing ordered by the appeals court. Rose, who was arrested and tried in 1994 and 1995 and convicted by a jury, has maintained his innocence.

**Bob Devereaux's** civil-rights lawsuit will again be heard by the U.S. Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals. Last July, a 2-1 vote by a three-judge panel agreed with a lower court that Devereaux's rights had not been violated. The rehearing may be a result of the very strong dissent in the panel decision.

"Court of Appeals to Hear Devereaux Case Again," *Wenatchee World*, Dec. 20, 2000.

**Harold and Idella Everett** have had their parental rights restored for four of their five children. The Everetts' two daughters were foster children of Wenatchee police Detective Bob Perez and his wife during the height of the investigations. They have since recanted the dozens of accusations they made.

"Parental Rights Restored in Wenatchee Child Sex Case," Associated Press, Dec. 20, 2000

The Innocence Project was started by Barry Scheck and Peter Neufeld in New York City in 1992. Scheck and Neufeld have pioneered the use of DNA testing to free the wrongly convicted, and Project Innocence has been the stimulus behind the release of the Wenatchee prisoners. Scheck and Neufeld are now calling for a state commission to reinvestigate the largely discredited child sex-abuse cases of the mid-1990s so that a similar debacle does not happen again and so that officials are held accountable.

**Legal Articles That May Be of Interest to Readers**

Grove W.M. & Barden R. C. "Protecting the Integrity of the Legal System: The Admissibility of Testimony From Mental Health Experts Under Daubert/Kumho Analyses" *Psychology, Public Policy, and Law* 1999. Vol. 5, No.1, 224-242.

Miller, M. A. "The Unreliability of Testimony From a Witness With Multiple Personality Disorder (MPD): Why Courts Must Acknowledge the Connection Between Hypnosis and MPD and Adopt a "Per Se" Rule of Exclusion for MPD Testimony" *Pepperdine Law Review* 2000, 27 *Pepp. L. Rev.* 193.

Slovenko, R. "Commentary: Psychiatric Opinion Without Examination" *Journal of Psychiatry & Law* 28, Spring 2000, 103-143.

**Correction**

Re: Nov/Dec issue in the write up of Miller v Marlow. Starla was not under the care of Marlow when she committed suicide. She was under the care of a psychiatrist in Texas. Marlow was the therapist who started the recovered-memory therapy for Starla.

"In practical terms, the debate has had two major effects. First, proponents of 'recovered memory therapy' are now almost impossible to find within the ranks of leading psychiatrists and psychologists. . . Second, good practice now requires both the therapist and the client to adopt a critical attitude towards any apparent memory that is recovered after a period of amnesia, whether or not this is within a therapeutic context, and not to assume that it necessarily corresponds to a true event."

Chris R. Brewin

4.6.3 "Recovered memories and false memories" Volume 1  
*New Oxford Textbook of Psychiatry*  
(Edited by Gelder, M, Lopez-Ibor, J. and Andreasen, N.)  
Oxford University Press, 2000, pp 771-774



## Four Cases of Massachusetts Injustice

Robert Chattell

In 1966, at age 42, Violet Amirault got off welfare by starting a daycare in her Malden home. For 18 years, the school cared for thousands of youngsters without incident. In April 1984, Violet's son **Gerald** changed into fresh clothing a four-year-old who wet himself during a nap, and sent the wet things home in a plastic bag. The mother became alarmed and started quizzing her son about sexual abuse. (The McMartin case was major national news at this time.) Nearly five months later, he told his mother that Gerald blindfolded him every day at preschool, took him to a "secret room" and performed various sex acts. The mother called a hotline. Gerald was arrested, panic ensued, and police and social workers called a meeting where parents were told to interrogate their children and not to take no for an answer. Children were also suggestively interrogated by police and social workers, using since discredited props such as anatomically correct dolls. Violet, Gerald, and Gerald's sister, **Cheryl LeFave**, were all brought to trial. Much of the testimony was incredible, but jurors became convinced that something must have happened. Gerald was sentenced to 30-40 years; his mother and sister, to 8-20 years.

In August 1995, Cheryl and Violet were granted new trials and freed on bail. The Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court (SJC) voided this order on April 29, 1997, claiming that finality was more important than justice. Judge Isaac Borenstein issued additional new-trial orders on May 9, 1997 and June 18, 1998. Violet died on September 12, 1997. The SJC ordered Cheryl back to prison in August 1999. District Attorney Martha Coakley balked and agreed to a revise-and-revoke order keeping Cheryl out of prison, provided she agree to terms

such as not discussing the case on TV. In April 2000, Gerald petitioned the governor for commutation, but no action has yet been taken.

Contributions to the Amirault defense fund can be sent (with an explanatory note) to The Funding Exchange, Attn: Judy Hatcher, 666 Broadway, New York NY 10012

**Bernard Baran**, a gay teenager from a working-class family in Pittsfield, dropped out of school in May 1981 and enrolled in the CETA program. In January 1983, he was assigned to a day care program, the Early Childhood Development Center (ECDC). Many of its children came from homes where alcoholism, drug abuse, sex abuse, and violence were rampant. "Peter Hanes" (an alias) came from one of the worst. Shortly after Gerald Amirault's arrest, Peter's stepfather called ECDC to complain about 19-year-old Baran's homosexuality. A month later, both parents accused Baran of sexually abusing their son.

The police charged into the school, telling the staff that Baran was suspected of child rape. Word spread like wildfire, parents anxiously questioned their children, and meetings were called. Children were encouraged to play with anatomically correct dolls. Five additional accusations were created. Before trial, Peter made a much more credible sexual-abuse accusation against one of his mother's boyfriends. But the authorities barely investigated. The mother of another accuser, "Virginia Stone," used illicit drugs with the Hanes parents. Eight months after Baran's conviction, Virginia told her therapist that Baran had done nothing but that her mother had told her to say he had so they could get a lot of money.

Baran's family hired a \$500-retainer lawyer who did little. The trial was a farce, with homophobic grandstanding by the prosecutor. The kids responded to his questions with nods and monosyllables. When a child gave

a wrong answer, the prosecutor just repeated the question until the "right" answer was produced. Much hearsay was admitted and defense objections were routinely overruled.

Baran was convicted and sentenced to three concurrent life terms. He was raped for the first time four days after being sent to Walpole. Rapes and brutal beatings were common in the facility. A suicide attempt got him transferred to Bridgewater State Hospital in 1989. Public defenders are working on a new motion for a new trial.

Contributions can be sent to The Bernard Baran Justice Committee, POB 230783, Boston MA 02123-0783.

**Ray and Shirley Souza** raised five children in Lowell. Ray worked as an electrical lineman and Shirley was a nurse. The youngest daughter, Shirley Ann, sought counseling after a near date rape, and was encouraged to read *The Courage to Heal*. On Father's Day, 1990, Shirley Ann dreamt she was raped by her father, her oldest brother, and her mother. She called her sister-in-law, Heather, to tell them that Ray and Shirley were child molesters. Heather took her five-year-old daughter, Cindy, to a psychologist. When the psychologist said there was no evidence of sexual abuse, Heather found another counselor eager to "validate" the accusation. Sharon, another daughter, then became convinced that her own daughter, Nancy, had been molested by the grandparents. The two little girls were repeatedly grilled by their mothers, therapists, social workers, and police until they gave in and "disclosed."

The case came to trial in January 1993. The Souza's attorney foolishly advised them to waive their right to a jury trial, even though the judge was Elizabeth Dolan, who had shown her biases when she'd presided over Gerald Amirault's trial. There was no physical evidence against the Souzas. Nancy testified that her grandparents



had stuck their entire hands and heads into her vagina and wiggled them around. Cindy claimed to have been locked in a cage in the basement.

Dolan was hostile to the Souzas' expert witness, Columbia University psychiatrist Richard Gardner, who criticized the highly suggestive interviewing techniques and the use of anatomically correct dolls. The prosecution presented "experts" from Boston's Children's Hospital: Dr. Leslie Campis, who rehashed Dr. Roland Summit's unfounded and discredited "child abuse accommodation" theory, and Dr. Andre Vandeven, who claimed that Nancy's anal dilation was "consistent with anal penetration." Under cross-examination, she said that *non-dilation* was also consistent with penetration.

The Souzas were sentenced to 9-15 years under house arrest. All appeals have failed. At present there are no plans for further appeals and no defense fund.

**Bruce Clairmont** of Pittsfield separated from his wife, Deborah, in June 1991. Bruce had visitation rights with their five children on Sunday afternoons. In July 1991, "Neal," on his twelfth birthday, was caught in sex experimentation with his 8-year-old sister. Deborah and the two children began seeing an unlicensed social worker, just out of school. The social worker interpreted Neal's behavior as evidence of molestation by Bruce. Deborah accused Bruce of touching the children's genitals when he bathed them when young. (Bruce, like Deborah, washed the children's genitals with a washcloth when they were too young to bathe themselves.) The Department of Social Services (DSS) got involved in January 1993. The children were interviewed and they denied abuse. But Deborah and social workers persisted until they "disclosed."

In April 1993, a Guardian ad Litem was appointed by the court and Dr. William Hydon, a licensed clinical

psychologist, was asked to investigate the abuse claims. In August, Hydon issued a report detailing why he thought no abuse had occurred and recommending that visitation resume. Undaunted, Deborah took the children to a pediatrician. Nothing abnormal was found, but the doctor reported a skin tag near Neal's anus. Before the grand jury and during the criminal trial, a detective falsely testified that Neal had an anal tear.

Bruce went to trial on December 6, 1994. His lawyer provided a shoddy defense. He was convicted and sentenced on December 21, 1994. He lost his direct appeal. He was eligible for parole this year, but was denied because he refuses to admit to crimes he did not commit. A motion for a new trial is in process.

Contributions can be sent to Bruce Clairmont Defense Fund, c/o Carol Weissbrod, 1866 Washington Mt Rd, Washington, MA 01223

Because many dubious convictions have been overturned elsewhere, people often ask, "Why has it been so difficult to obtain justice in liberal Massachusetts?" Back in the 60s, when the busing crisis exposed Boston's racism, people similarly asked, "How can this be happening in liberal Massachusetts?" The state's liberalism is a myth, believed primarily because Massachusetts is the Kennedys' home state.

Many factors mitigate against justice here. Our hostility towards civil liberties goes back nearly 400 years – as does our Puritanical horror of sex. We hung the Salem witches and electrocuted Sacco and Vanzetti. Corruption, cronyism, and class and ethnic warfare are still rife. Victims-rights liberals have allied themselves with anti-crime conservatives. The people of Massachusetts, however, are good and decent and will do the right thing once they understand what has been happening. Thus our best hope for justice here is that the people will

lead and that elected officials and judges eventually will follow. We must work because the system doesn't.

Massachusetts is a one-party state and many powerful Democrats – including former gubernatorial nominee Scott Harshbarger, Attorney General Tom Reilly, and Middlesex DA Martha Coakley – built their careers on these shoddy convictions.

*Bob Chatelle is Co-Director of the Bernard Baran Justice Committee and has lived in Massachusetts for over 40 years. Sources for this article include his personal research and published material by Dorothy Rabinowitz, Mark Pendergrast, and Carol Weissbrod.*



"A consequence of FMS societies is that they have brought the magnitude of the problem to public attention, and appear to have been instrumental in reducing the volume of such accusations in recent times. This, though, may be a function of "recovered memory" therapists modifying their techniques over the last few years, and instructing their patients not to sue their parents, and advising them to testify in court that they always remembered being sexually abused during childhood, but had not felt comfortable about coming forward until recently. In other words, the FMS problem may be becoming more severe, despite indications to the contrary."

Campbell Perry "Hypnosis and the Elicitation of Repressed and/or Dissociated Memories" *Hypnos* Vol. XXVII, No. 3, Sept. 2000 pp 124-130.

### FREE

**"Recovered Memories: Are They Reliable?"**

**Call or write the FMS Foundation for pamphlets. Be sure to include your address and the number of pamphlets you need.**

### The Phone Rang

Maybe our experience will provide a little sprig of hope for some who may be inclined to give up.

Nearly eleven years ago, two of our grown daughters accused us, then cut off all contact. For over ten years we had no direct contact, heard neither their voices nor the voices of our four cherished grandchildren. By direct or indirect means, we have sent messages or gifts, which have often been "refused" or accepted in silence.

On April 24, 2000, the phone rang. The call was from one of the accusing daughters. Her voice was cheerful and pleasant and she asked how we were, but there was no mention of "the problem." Ostensibly her purpose was to let us know she had decided to divorce her husband and she needed help getting a job. We were informed that any future contact was to be initiated by her. Shortly before the phone call, her mother had written her a letter and we think that may have helped trigger the first phone call.

On June 25, our daughter came to her brother's wedding reception and dinner. She stayed three hours visiting with her two sisters, brother and nearly 50 cousins. My wife and I had practically no opportunity to visit with her, but she seemed to have a good time and everyone welcomed her with open arms. When she was ready to leave she sought out my wife and me and gave us each a hug before she left.

Since then, she attended my brother's funeral and a family get-together. She also came to my birthday celebration. Her siblings have had additional contact with her.

Where, if anyplace, things will go from here I do not know. The oldest daughter is still very hostile and I have still had no contact with any of the grandchildren.

After more than ten years, a con-

tact has been made and our hope still springs eternal.

God bless the FMS Foundation for your work in ferreting out the truth and giving hope and guidance to those who feel so helpless.

A hopeful dad



### What a Way for a Return

In January 1993 we got our call—straight out of Bass and Davis—to come to California to meet our daughter's "psychiatrist." The confrontation was devastating. We had never heard of repressed memories and, I'm ashamed to admit, I wondered if it could be true.

Within a week my husband was at Johns Hopkins Sexual Dysfunction Clinic willingly going through humiliating tests to prove his innocence. Fred Berlin, head of the clinic, said "no way" and directed us to an upcoming meeting of the new FMS organization to be held in Valley Forge, PA. It was a real eye-opener into what was happening.

We hired a private investigator who found that my daughter's "psychiatrist" was a well-known psychic with no formal training. Everything she had told us was a lie.

But my daughter was gone from us. She left the country for a year with no letters or calls. We only knew she was well through others. During the next five years our short visits and telephone calls were limited and strained and uncomfortable. Each year it was a little better, but she needed our financial support.

Three months ago everything changed. I got pancreatic cancer with only limited time to live. Now she talks on the phone every day, spent three weeks taking care of me, is coming for the holidays and truly loves me. Most important, she says she understands and accepts her father's faults and hugs him when she visits and has pleasant conversations with him. She almost,

but not quite, wrote a retraction.

Her psychic is on probation for practicing everything without a license, but she is still doing the same thing making a good living off insecure young women.

What I know is there is hope out there, but what an awful way to get a child to return.

I don't know which is worse — losing an only daughter or having a terminal illness.

From a sick but happy mother



### Personal Survey

My sisters in California and Oklahoma were already aware of the Recovered/False Memory problem from their involvement in their churches. My relatives in Oklahoma tell me that within the last month, they were given a presentation and movie on the benefits of Inner Healing. Their churches' eventual position was that the therapy did not involve unconditional forgiveness, and therefore was not a Christian approach.

My brother in Colorado indicated that he received a letter last year from their day care center indicating that there had been a report of child abuse. It included a list of dubious symptoms, a phone number for the local investigator, but little information about how to treat the issue constructively. They were happy that their current circumstances allowed them to not send their child to day care this year.

So, from my small family survey, my sisters were aware and very helpful. But us males were very much in the dark, absolutely clueless. We are less likely to talk about such things amongst our peers. This is not a topic discussed at work, the local watering hole or golf courses. This does point to the importance of family support and the FMSF website, an excellent source for the more geek prone dads. Please keep up the good work.

Surveyor

## Is This Normal?

It has been over 10 years now since our daughter falsely accused her mother and grandmother of physical and sexual abuse. This resulted from so called "repressed memory." Supposedly this took place when she was five to eight years of age. Our daughter was 28 when it was brought to our attention. She is now 38 and has never married. Her siblings have never agreed with her and there is no communication between them.

About three years ago our relationship started to warm and it was getting better all the time. She never admitted wrong-doing so we agreed to disagree. Last January she went on a trip to India. Since returning, she has brought up the same old accusations that she did 10 years ago. We are baffled by her actions as we had been communicating pretty well.

Are her new actions normal? Does this happen frequently?

A confused dad



## Is the FMSF Antipsychiatric?

I have written to the Foundation previously, and have been a reader of the Newsletter since its inception, since early on I was convinced that there was an epidemic of false accusations based on the suggestibility of children and adults. However, I believe that something is happening to the Foundation, and it has become a mouthpiece for an antipsychiatric crusade. I think the Foundation is diverting from its original purpose. I wonder if the Foundation is seeking a new purpose now that the forgotten memory syndrome is abated.

I am prompted to write again in response to your reprinting of Paul McHugh's statement originally printed in *The Weekly Standard*. What did that statement have to do with forgotten memories? Rather it is an attack on Freud and on the American Psychiatric

Association. I would guess that Dr. McHugh knows little of Marxism, and he may very well know little of Freudianism. Be that as it may, I still wonder why you chose to print his views. Was it because he was Professor of psychiatry at Johns Hopkins? I don't hold such an esteemed position, but will you print my letter?

Sincerely yours,  
Leo H. Berman, M.D.



## The Passing

John Einen and I knew each other for over 45 years, since before either of us was married. We started at the telephone company together, skied together, played poker, and even dated the same pretty girl once. I knew him well. Of all my friends, John had the highest code of ethics and integrity. He was honest to a fault and always a gentleman. I admired him greatly. We played a lot of golf together over the years, had many intense conversations, solving all the world's problems. He was opinionated however.

As the years rolled by, I heard many times how he loved his girls and looked forward to bouncing his grand kids on his knee, and about the trip to Norway he and his wife took after his retirement. He lived for his family. Then in 1991, the bomb dropped. I was working in Seattle and he called me and said he had to talk. He came up for the weekend and told me of his daughter's accusations and that his wife had filed for divorce. He was a basket case. That was the first time I ever held a man in my arms while he cried his heart out, over and over. He wanted to die and I spent many anxious moments talking him out of self destruction.

He was alone and in total agony. I learned about the FMS Foundation and Chuck Noah was in the news at the time so I finally got you all together and you saved his life. God bless you all. As he became more involved with your group he began to recover.

Meeting and helping others was therapeutic, and his marvelous sense of humor began returning along with his abilities to transfer his pain into caring for others. He was proud to know Elizabeth Loftus and other FMSF Advisory Board members.

I spent a lot of time with him the last month before he died. John's oldest daughter had stayed in contact with her Dad to some degree, but would not talk about the accusations with him and thought the FMSF was a cult, so he never had any help from anyone in his immediate family in dispelling the charges. She was with John day and night until the day of his passing. Two of his other daughters showed up to tell him good-bye. The accuser said, "John (not Dad) I hope you found peace." I think she said something about forgiving him. He rose up and asked, "For what, What did I do?" She said, "well, you know." He responded, "No I don't know, I did nothing to you or any one else and you know it." Then an argument ensued about the False Memory Foundation. She moved away and stood over in the corner with intense anguish on her face but said no more.

John died on October 23rd at 8:30 P.M.

John's friend



## It Feels Strange

The telephone call I never thought would come was on my voicemail when I returned from the gym the evening of September 4. It was my daughter calling to let me know where she was, leaving me her phone number and asking me to call her back. She went on to say that she wanted to apologize for the accusations she'd made against the family and for any pain she may have caused.

The last time I had seen her was when she came to town in January, 1994. Since she was still deeply committed to her accusations, we met in a public place for coffee for a couple of

hours. I made the stipulation that we not talk about her charges of Satanic Ritual Abuse, so we just caught up a little. I had not seen her since 1987 and it was a relief just to know that she was alive. But I did not hear from her after that evening. I tried to find her but all mail was returned.

Every month I would read parents' letters in the FMSF Newsletter about the return of their sons and daughters. I had resigned myself to the fact that I might never receive such a call. Sometimes, going to monthly meetings was extremely painful, as many of the folks would announce their reunions with their lost daughters.

It took me about an hour to get control of myself after hearing her message on that Monday night. I called her back and we talked for an hour. She told me that she began to doubt her accusations about two years ago, when she decided she wanted more out of life than being a victim. She related how she left her "survivors" group and found a new group of friends who supported her doubts. She confronted her therapist who, of course, dropped her like a hot potato. She moved to a different state with some of her new friends. There she met a man, fell in love and married. He encouraged her to call us. She wanted to "have her act together" before she called. When she finally called, two years after her move, she sounded focused and happy. She also called her sister, who had not supported her charges and was, thus, also cut off.

I must tell you that it feels strange to have my daughter back again. It still doesn't seem real. And when I pick up the phone and call her and hear her voice, it seems like a miracle.

By the way, my daughter came across some literature from FMSF while she was coming out of her nightmare and she asked me if I had ever heard of it! Where else did I receive support, comfort and sustenance over the past years if not from FMSF? I

could never have survived this ordeal without all the kind folks I have met through FMSF. My thanks to you all.

A happy mom



### Don't Condemn All

I am the father who was the subject of the article by Kathy Begert in the Nov/Dec issue of the FMS Newsletter.

Let me explain the functions of the dependency court and volunteers who help. The volunteers (CASA and GAL) have absolutely nothing to do with finding parents guilty or even accusing them of any crime. Dependency arises when a child protection team is sent to the home because of information given by the police, a doctor, a teacher, a relative, or even one of the parents, and sometimes a combination of all of these. If the team finds sufficient evidence, the dependency judge is asked for permission to temporarily shelter the children. From that point forward the efforts of the entire court are directed toward helping the parents be reunited with their children. The parents are not charged with any crime but are helped in every way possible to "get their act together." A case plan is developed with the participation of everyone involved. Goals are set and most often these entail drug and/or alcohol rehab programs, parenting and anger management classes.

The GAL/CASA volunteers cannot and do not desire to query the child or the parent about why they have been declared dependent. Their sole purpose is to ensure the well being of the child being sheltered. This involves frequent visits to where the child is sheltered, which may be a foster home, a relative, or even a parent who has not been involved in the problem, to see that the child is clean, well nourished, reasonably happy and that any medical problems are being cared for.

Instead of falsely accusing the parents as stated by Ms. Begert, these volunteers are working hard to see that the

children are safe and well until the parents are ready to be reunited with them.

I recently attended a three-day conference that was attended by hundreds of volunteers, judges, lawyers, social workers and others working to help children. There were 18 sessions. Not once did I hear the term "repressed memory" even mentioned or alluded to. One of the lawyers had worked for four years and had finally succeeded in getting a law passed that requires judges to ensure that any child 14 or under who is being questioned be addressed in language that he or she can understand. The law in Florida states that a child can only be interrogated once. The CASA/GAL volunteers are empowered by the court to enforce this law. I implore Ms. Begert and Newsletter readers to visit a few sessions of a dependency court. I don't think anyone will then say that we are all monsters.

A caring dad



### The Crisis in Foster Care

"Five years ago there were about a quarter of a million children in the country's foster-care system. Today that number has doubled, to between 550,000 and 560,000 children. Often these are held hostage to abuse and neglect, to bureaucratic foulups and carelessness, condemned to futures in which dreams cannot come true."

"[N]eglect and a quagmire of child-swallowing bureaucracies plague the system. And the incidence of neglect, physical and sexual abuse of children in the various foster-care systems is feared to be significantly higher than the incidence in the general population. Nobody bothers to keep an accurate count, but in round numbers, more than 7,500 children are tortured under what is technically government protection."

Roche, Timothy "The Crisis of Foster Care" *Time*, Nov. 13, 2000

"It has been about 30 years since the first rumblings of discontent with the state of academic psychology began to be heard...It is a remarkable feature of mainstream academic psychology that, alone among the sciences, it should be almost wholly immune to critical appraisal as an enterprise. Methods that have long been shown to be ineffective or worse are still used on a routine basis by hundreds, perhaps thousands of people. Conceptual muddles long exposed to view are evident in almost every issue of standard psychology journals."

Rom Harré, "Acts of Living" *Science*, 289 (25) August 2000 p. 1303.

### ESTATE PLANNING

If you have questions about how to include the FMSF in your estate planning, contact Charles Caviness 800-289-9060. (Available 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM Pacific time.)

### BRUCE PERKINS

In the July/August newsletter we wrote about the auction of paintings by Bruce Perkins at the April FMSF conference in White Plains. Bruce resides in a Texas prison because of RMT therapy. He wanted to make a contribution to the Foundation in the only way that he could.

For those of you who were not able to be present at the conference, you can now see Bruce's work on a new website.

<http://www.ultranet.com/~kyp/perkins.html>

You can learn more about Bruce's case by reading his story written by Eleanor Goldstein and Mark Pendergrast at

<http://www.ultranet.com/~kyp/perkins.html>

Back issues of the FMSF Newsletter to March, 1992, the start of FMSF, are available at [www.FMSFonline.org](http://www.FMSFonline.org)

"The civil and criminal cases recounted in Richard Ofshe and Ethan Watters' *Making Monsters: False Memories, Psychotherapy, and Sexual Hysteria* (1994) will be examined for a very long time by those seeking to understand how bad therapy and bad law fed on each other to inflict on the courts the recovered-memory and daycare-abuse hysterias of the early 1990s. Future generations will marvel at the credulity and sentimentality that paralyzed the normal operations of skepticism, so that the most outlandish accusations were enough to send people to prison or put them through terrible ordeals.

Walter Olson

"Legal help" *Reason* 53, 12/01/2000  
Copyright (c) 2000 Bell & Howell  
Information and Learning Company.

### Psychology Astray: Fallacies in Studies of "Repressed Memory" and Childhood Trauma

by Harrison G. Pope, Jr., M.D.

Upton Books

This is an indispensable guide for any person who wants or needs to understand the research claims about recovered memories. A review by Stuart Sutherland in the prestigious *Nature* magazine (July 17, 1997) says that the book is a "model of clear thinking and clear exposition." The book is an outgrowth of the "Focus on Science" columns that have appeared in this newsletter.

### Legal Websites of Interest

[www.findlaw.com](http://www.findlaw.com)

[www.legalengine.com](http://www.legalengine.com)

[www.accused.com](http://www.accused.com)

Did you move?  
Do you have a new area code?  
Remember to inform the  
FMSF Business Office

### Smiling through Tears

Pamela Freyd and Eleanor Goldstein  
Upton Books • ISBN No 9-89777.125.7 •  
\$14.95

Over 125 cartoons by more than 65 cartoonists lead the way through a description of the complex web of psychological and social elements that have nurtured the recovered memory movement. Ask your bookstore to order the book or call 1-800-232-7477.

Comments:

"At once both thoroughly informative and devastatingly witty."

Alan Gold, Criminal Defense Attorney,  
Toronto

"I think the book is terrific. I liked it because it supported a lot of the opinions I've had on psychiatry, cults, brain-washing and other ideas mentioned in the book."

Mort Walker, Creator of *Beetle Bailey*

"It's a must read"

Elizabeth Loftus, Ph.D.

Author of *Myth of Repressed Memory*

### Web Sites of Interest

[www.StopBadTherapy.com](http://www.StopBadTherapy.com)

Contains phone numbers of professional regulatory boards in all 50 states

[www.IllinoisFMS.org](http://www.IllinoisFMS.org)

Illinois-Wisconsin FMS Society

[www.afma.asn.au](http://www.afma.asn.au)

Australian False Memory Association.

[www.bfms.org.uk](http://www.bfms.org.uk)

British False Memory Society

[www.geocities.com/retractor](http://www.geocities.com/retractor)

This site is run by Laura Pasley (retractor)

[www.geocities.com/~therapyletters/index.htm](http://www.geocities.com/~therapyletters/index.htm)

This site is run by Deb David (retractor)

[www.sirs.com/uptonbooks/index.htm](http://www.sirs.com/uptonbooks/index.htm)

Upton Books

[www.angelfire.com/tx/recovered-memories/](http://www.angelfire.com/tx/recovered-memories/)

Having trouble locating books about the recovered memory phenomenon?

Recovered Memory Bookstore

[www.heritagetheater.com](http://www.heritagetheater.com)

Information about the play "Denial"

## CONTACTS &amp; MEETINGS - UNITED STATES

## ALABAMA

Montgomery  
Marge (334) 244-7891

## ALASKA

Kathleen (907) 337-7821

## ARKANSAS

Little Rock

Al & Lela (870) 363-4368

## CALIFORNIA

Sacramento

Joanne & Gerald (916) 933-3655  
San Francisco & North Bay - (bi-MO)

Gideon (415) 389-0254 or  
Charles (415) 984-6626(am);  
(415) 435-9618(pm)

San Francisco & South Bay

Eric (408) 245-4493

East Bay Area

Judy (925) 376-8221

Central Coast

Carole (805) 967-8058

Central Orange County

Chris & Alan (949) 733-2925

Covina Area - 1st Mon. (quarterly)  
@7:30pm

Floyd & Libby (626) 330-2321

San Diego Area

Dee (760) 941-4816

## COLORADO

Colorado Springs

Doris (719) 488-9738

## CONNECTICUT

S. New England -

Earl (203) 329-8365 or  
Paul (203) 458-9173

## FLORIDA

Dade/Broward

Madeline (954) 966-4FMS

Boca/Delray - 2nd & 4th Thurs (MO) @1pm

Helen (561) 498-8684

Central Florida - Please call for mtg. time

John & Nancy (352) 750-5446

Sarasota

Francis and Sally (941) 342-8310

Tampa Bay Area

Bob & Janet (727) 856-7091

## GEORGIA

Atlanta

Wallie & Jill (770) 971-8917

## ILLINOIS

Chicago & Suburbs - 1st Sun. (MO)

Eileen (847) 985-7693 or

Liz & Roger (847) 827-1056

Peoria

Bryant & Lynn (309) 674-2767

## INDIANA

Indiana Assn. for Responsible Mental  
Health Practices

Nickie (317) 471-0922; fax (317) 334-9839

Pat (219) 489-9987

## IOWA

Des Moines - 1st Sat. (MO) @11:30am

Lunch

Betty & Gayle (515) 270-6976

## KANSAS

Wichita - Meeting as called

Pat (785) 738-4840

## KENTUCKY

Louisville - Last Sun. (MO) @ 2pm

Bob (502) 367-1838

## MAINE

Rumbold -

Carolyn (207) 364-8891

Portland - 4th Sun. (MO)

Wally & Bobby (207) 878-9812

## MASSACHUSETTS/NEW ENGLAND

Andover - 2nd Sun. (MO) @ 1pm

Frank (978) 263-9795

## MICHIGAN

Grand Rapids Area-Jenison - 1st Mon.  
(MO)

Bill & Marge (616) 383-0382

Greater Detroit Area -

Nancy (248) 642-8077

Ann Arbor

Martha (734) 439-8119

## MINNESOTA

Terry & Collette (507) 642-3630

Dan & Joan (651) 631-2247

## MISSOURI

Kansas City - Meeting as called

Pat (785) 738-4840

St. Louis Area - call for meeting time

Karen (314) 432-8789

Springfield - 4th Sat. Apr, Jul, Oct

@12:30pm

Tom (417) 753-4878

Roxie (417) 781-2058

## MONTANA

Lee & Avone (406) 443-3189

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Sally (609) 927-5343 (Southern)

Nancy (973) 729-1433 (Northern)

## NEW MEXICO

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Southwest Room - Presbyterian Hospital

Maggie (505) 662-7521(after 6:30pm) or

Sy (505) 758-0726

## NEW YORK

Westchester, Rockland, etc.

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Victoria & Vancouver Island - 3rd Tues.

(MO) @7:30pm

John (250) 721-3219

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## ONTARIO, CANADA

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## AUSTRALIA

Roger: Phone & Fax 352-897-284

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Task Force FMS of Werkgroep Fictieve

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Anna (31) 20-693-5692

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Colleen (09) 416-7443

## SWEDEN

Ake Moller FAX (48) 431-217-90

## UNITED KINGDOM

The British False Memory Society

Madeline (44) 1225 868-682

Deadline for the MAR/APR  
Newsletter is February 15. Meeting  
notices **MUST** be in writing and sent  
no later than two months prior to  
the meeting.

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